



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

---

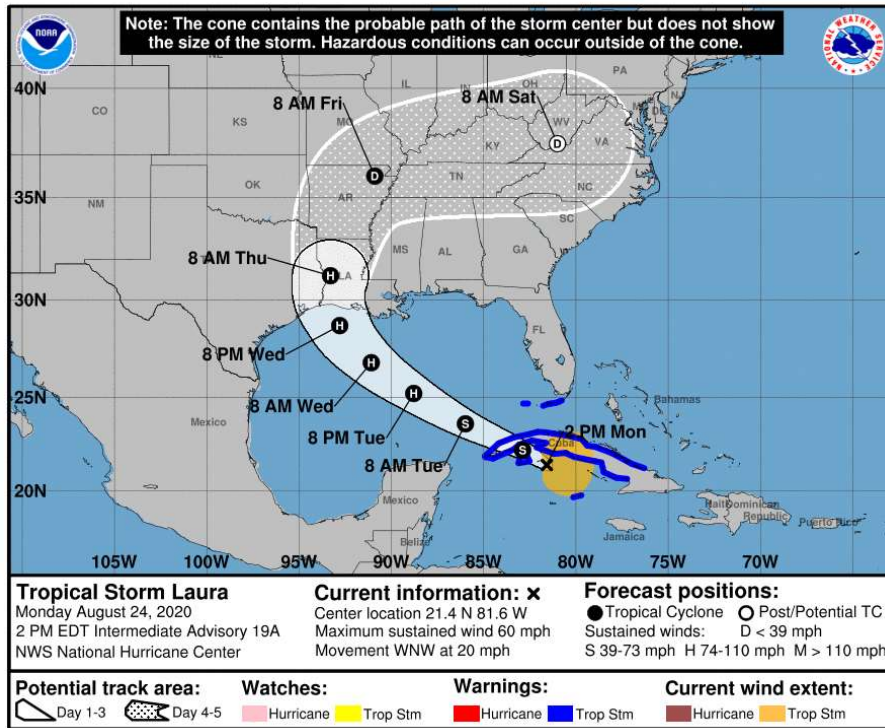
Event Name	20-0013 August Tropical Weather
Date	24 August 2020
Time	1400
Operational Period	August 23 to August 24, 2020
Report Number	1

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	2
DDCs Active	DDC's 14 & 15

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** On August 23, Governor Abbott held a press conference at the Alternate State Operations Center in Austin where he provided an update on the State's response to Hurricane Marco and Tropical Storm Laura, both of which are forecast to impact parts of the Texas Coast and East Texas in the coming days. Prior to the press conference, the Governor received a briefing from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), as well as an update on response and preparedness efforts from State agency directors and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and President Trump have granted a Federal Emergency Declaration request for Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures). Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct Federal assistance and reimbursement for mass care including evacuation and shelter support at 75 percent federal funding. The Governor submitted this request yesterday.

**Weather:** (National Weather Service (NWS) National Hurricane Center NHC))



**Tropical Storm Marco:** At 1:00 PM CDT (1800 UTC), the center of Tropical Storm Marco was located near latitude 28.7 North, longitude 88.6 West. Marco is moving toward the northwest near 6 mph (13 km/h). There are no Coastal Watches or Warnings in effect. Gusty winds, heavy rainfall and lingering coastal flooding are expected from Marco along portions of the Gulf Coast through this evening.

Data from the Hurricane Hunter plane indicate that maximum sustained winds have decreased to near 40 mph (70 km/h) with higher gusts. Further weakening is expected, and Marco is forecast to become a tropical depression late on Tuesday and dissipate on Wednesday.

**Tropical Storm Laura:** At 2:00 PM CDT (1900 UTC), the center of Tropical Storm Laura was located near latitude 21.4 North, longitude 81.6 West. Laura is moving toward the west-northwest near 20 mph (32 km/h), and this general motion with some decrease in forward speed is expected over the next couple of days. A turn toward the northwest is forecast by Wednesday. The Tropical Cyclone wind and surge watches or warnings are likely to be issued for portions of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico late today for Tropical Storm Laura.

On the forecast track, the center of Laura will move over the Caribbean Sea just offshore the southern coast of Cuba today, and move into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico by early Tuesday morning. Laura is then forecast to move over the central and northwestern Gulf of Mexico Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Maximum sustained winds are near 60 mph (95 km/h) with higher gusts. Gradual strengthening is expected, and Laura is forecast to become a hurricane by early Tuesday.

The estimated minimum central pressure is 1001 mb (30.53 inches).

**Current preparations for Tropical Storms Marco and Laura include:**

- TDEM activated the Alamo Regional Command Center (ARCC)
- TDEM has ordered 100 buses to arrive at the ARCC.
- TDEM activated the state contract for fuel and hygiene services.
- TDEM Mass Care is working with VOADs regarding shelter capacity, feeding, and other support operations. Capacity to shelter 5,000 evacuees has been identified
- TDEM has packaging shelter sanitation kits ready for deployment.
- TDEM has relocated one tractor trailer of MREs to the State warehouse in San Antonio.
- TEEX has rostered two each Type 3 (35 person) search and rescue teams, pre-positioning eight swift water boat squads along the Texas coast, and has three high profile vehicles.
- TFS has identified saw crews to support response.
- TFS has identified incident management teams (IMTs).
- DSHS has activated EMTF severe weather packages.
- DSHS has activated 50 ambulances, staging manager, and medical incident support personnel.
- DSHS has identified two current warm status COVID ACS facilities that can be converted to medical shelters; one in San Antonio and one north of the Houston area.
- DSHS has alerted BCFS on the possible need to establish a Medical Shelter Task Force.
- TXDOT has identified 15 high-profile vehicles and crews to support.
- TXDOT has seven miles of water barrier as well as contractors on-call in the event flooding occurs on IH-10 @ Winnie to remove concrete highway barriers.

- HHSC has activated the state ice and water contract.
- DPS-THP has rostered their marine unit swift water rescue teams (four boat squads; two in Weslaco and two in Rockport) and helicopters with hoist capability, as well as 1,000 Highway Patrol Troopers as needed.
- TMD has activated one Ground SAR transportation packages beginning Monday (08/24) and have identified available helicopters with hoist capability (three UH-60 in San Antonio and one Lakota in Austin).
- TMD has identified shelter teams and embarkation hub teams (ETN Teams).
- TPWD has activated their SAR shallow bottom boats and teams to support water rescue operations, an aircraft with hoist capability and helo rescue swimmer; 10 drone teams, and 100 Game Wardens.

#### **OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

#### **Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)**

**DDC 14 – Lufkin** (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler Counties)

DDC 14 activated to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) beginning Monday, August 24 at 8:00 AM.

**DDC 15 – Beaumont** (Includes: Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties)

DDC 15 EOC activated to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) beginning Monday, August 24 at 6:00 AM.

**Jefferson County** – The Jefferson County Judge submitted a Disaster Declaration on August 23.

#### **RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS**

**Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM):** The State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions. The Daily Operations staff continues to process disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), as well as disseminating severe weather messages, preparing Snapshots and the State SITREP. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the alternate State Operations Center, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners to assist with any unmet needs and resources.

**Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service Texas Task Force 1 (TEEX/TX-TF1):** TX-TF1 ESF-9 Operations at the SOC is being staffed for 24-hour operations.

- Type-1 SAR Team rostered and activated,
- Type-3 SAR Team rostered and activated,
- SWR Squads and SWR Managers rostered and activated,
- Overhead Team rostered and activated,
- Beaumont Disaster District (DC-15) LO rostered and activated

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS):** TFS currently has four personnel assigned and numerous resources rostered to assist with needs relating to August Tropical Weather response. TFS is currently providing planning and logistical support, and other functional areas as needed, to TDEM and local entities. Response activities include Situation Reports, STAR Processing, logistical support for shipping and receiving medical and sheltering supplies, and incident management support. Additional resources are rostered and ready to assist where needed, including: saw teams, incident management teams, and TIFMAS boat teams.

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ):** TDCJ will be activating their TDCJ Hurricane Command Center effective 6:00AM August 24 until the threat of tropical weather has passed.

**Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):** DPS Aviation has rostered and staged four helicopters with hoist capabilities in Austin, Houston and San Antonio, and three fixed wing assets in Houston, San Antonio and El Paso. They have additional personnel for ground support and maintenance prepared to respond to areas impacted by Hurricane Marco and Tropical Storm Laura. Aviation also has six pilots, one Tactical Flight Officer for fuel truck/trailer ops and three maintenance personnel from TxDOT to assist. THP Tactical Marine Unit (TMU) has rostered and staged six flood recovery boats in Weslaco, Rockport and Port Lavaca to assist with water rescues. There are 11 Dive Recovery Teams are staged across Texas for any emergency response. THP has rostered over 1,100 Troopers statewide who are ready to deploy when needed. THP is currently providing staffing at the SOC in support of Hurricane Marco and Tropical Storm Laura.

**Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):** The EMTF has activated and staged emergency medical response resources in San Antonio.






**Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD currently has activated up to 71 personnel and 20 HPVs in support of the August Tropical Weather Response. TMD deployed contingency forces to protect life and property. TMD is supporting TX-TF1 with search, rescue and other missions.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD has rostered and prepared department resources consisting of Texas Game Wardens and State Parks Police Officers equipped with swift water boats, shallow water boats, and a rescue helicopter with swimmer to support boat rescue operations in areas affected by Hurricane Marco and Tropical Storm Laura.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** TxDOT is standing by to help with any requests. Crews are prepared to respond to any highway condition related issues. Seven miles of water barrier have been pre-staged along the coastal districts for post incident deployment.

**Federal Communication Commission (FCC)** The FCC has activated their EOC, with particular interest in the status of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the path of either tropical system.

#### STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

AMBULANCES	BOATS	BUSES	AIRCRAFT	HIGH-PROFILE
				
56	63	100	12	38

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TFS A&M	TFS/ESF 4 Representative	2		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TFS A&M	TFS EOC Support	3		Assigned	College Station
TFS A&M	RSA/POD Liaison/Logistical Support	1		Activated	SOC/Austin
TFS A&M	All-hazards Planning Modules	12		Activated	DDEOC/Local
TFS A&M	T2 IMT Support (Short Team)	16		Activated	TBD
TFS A&M	Saw Modules (TFS)	10		Activated	TBD
TFS A&M	Saw Modules (TIFMAS)	40		Activated	TBD
TFS A&M	Engine Strike Teams (TIFMAS)	100		Activated	TBD
TFS A&M	Boat Crews (TIFMAS)	100		Activated	TBD
TEEX TX-TF1	SOC Liaisons	3		Activated	SOC/Austin
TEEX TX-TF1	DC-15 Liaisons	1		Activated	Beaumont
TEEX TX-TF1	Over Head Team	2		Activated	College Station
TEEX TX-TF1	Texas A&M Task Force #1 (Type-1)	73	7	Activated	Rostered

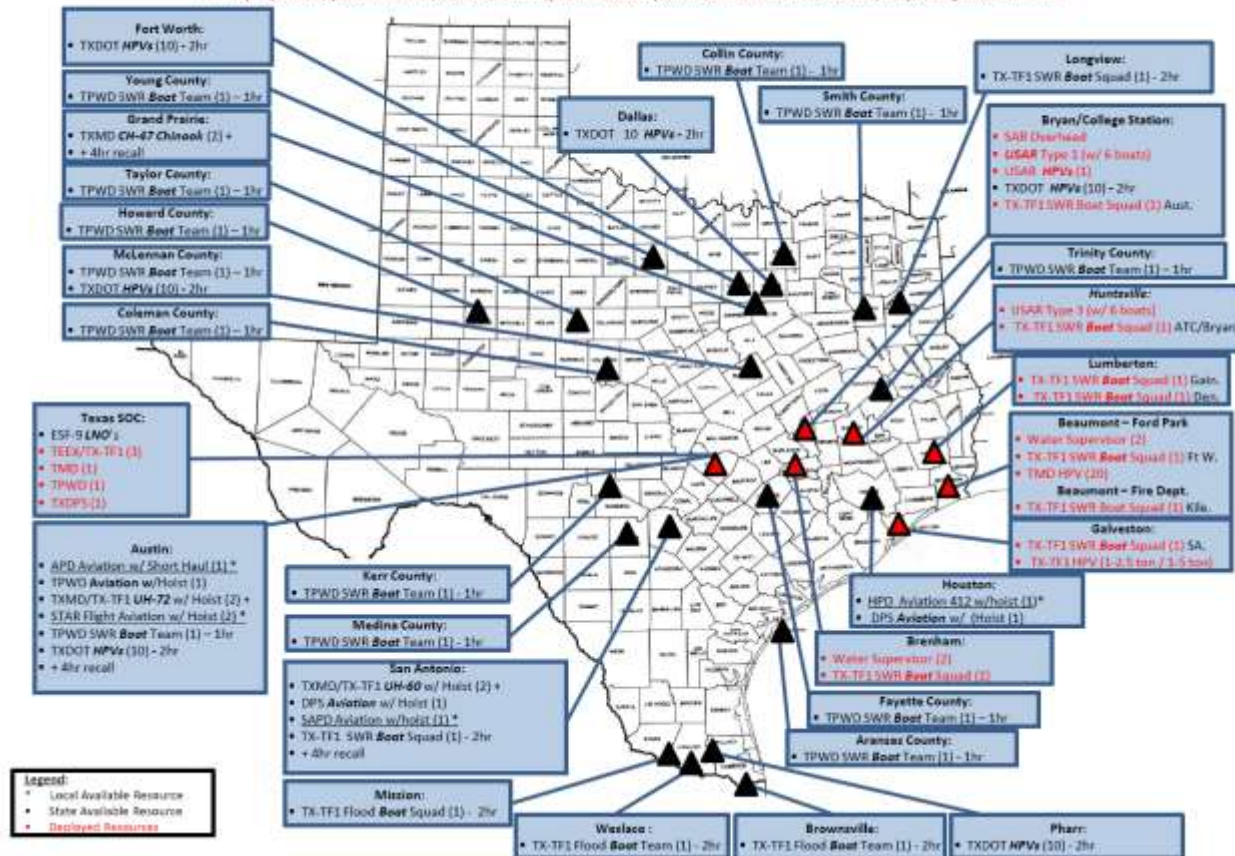
TEEX TX-TF1	Texas A&M Task Force #2 (Type-3)	46		Activated	Rostered
TEEX TX-TF1	SWR Boat Squads and SWR Managers	53	18	Activated	Rostered
DPS-THP	DPS Aviation/W Hoist	12	4	Activated	Austin, Houston, San Antonio
DPS-THP	DPS Fixed Wing	6	3	Activated	Houston, San Antonio, El Paso
DPS-THP	Flood Recovery Boat	24	6	Activated	Weslaco, Rockport, Port Lavaca
DPS-THP	Dive Recovery Team Members		7	Activated	Statewide
TX-EMTF	EMTF Command Team			Staged	ARCC San Antonio
TX-EMTF	Ambulance Staging Management Team			Staged	ARCC San Antonio
TX-EMTF	Ambulance Strike Teams (AST)			En Route	ARCC San Antonio
TX-EMTF	AMBUS		3	En Route	ARCC San Antonio
TX-EMTF	AMBUS		3	Standby	Various
TX-EMTF	Medical Incident Support Team (MIST)	4		Standby	Various
TX-EMTF	Paramedics	10		Standby	Various
TMD	2 Ground Transportation Platoons	20	10	Assigned	Brownwood
TMD	Ground Transportation HDQTRs	12		Assigned	
TMD	2 Ground Transportation Platoons	20	10	Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	BNMC	18		Activated	Corpus Christi
TMD	MDC DDC 15	1		Activated	Beaumont
TPWD	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	Game Warden	56		Activated	South East Texas
TPWD	State Park Police	5		Activated	South East Texas
TPWD	Swift Water Boats		6	Activated	South East Texas
TPWD	Shallow Water Boats		20	Activated	South East Texas
TPWD	Helicopter	2	1	Activated	Austin
TxDOT	HPV Team	10	5	Rostered	Houston



TxDOT	HPV Team	10	5	Rostered	Waco
TXDOT	HPV Team	10	5	Rostered	Bryan
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	3	0	Assigned	Austin

### SAR Resources 08-24-2020 0300 hrs ( ETA-1200 hrs Staging Locations)

*This map depicts a snapshot in time. Resource locations are fluid based on response needs. Use normal resource request process for SAR assistance.*



**FINAL COMMENTS:** The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

#### The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:  
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/sitrep/default.aspx>.



**W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM**

Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management  
Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services  
Texas A&M University System

<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

Twitter: @TDEM

(512) 424-2208 (24/7)